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Adoption of the agenda and organization of work: reports of the General Committee

Crime prevention and criminal justice

Letter dated 25 September 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

By its resolution 53/111, the General Assembly decided to establish an open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc committee for the purpose of elaborating a comprehensive international convention against transnational organized crime and of discussing the elaboration, as appropriate, of international instruments addressing trafficking in women and children, combating the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, and illegal trafficking in and transporting of migrants, including by sea.

By its resolution 54/126, the General Assembly also decided that the Ad Hoc Committee should submit the final text of the Convention and the protocols thereto to the Assembly for early adoption prior to a high-level signing conference.

The text of the draft Convention is the product of a two-year drafting process that was marked by a deep commitment and constructive spirit in the open-ended Ad Hoc Committee. A great number of States from all regions of the world, together with intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, took an active role in the process and showed deep interest in the elaboration of this instrument.

At its tenth session, the Ad Hoc Committee examined a draft resolution on the adoption of the convention for consideration and action by the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session, on the understanding that the text of the draft resolution would be finalized at the Ad Hoc Committee's eleventh session, in order to take into account the results of that session with respect to the draft protocols.

The Ad Hoc Committee will hold its eleventh session from 2 to 27 October 2000. That session will be devoted to the finalization and approval of the additional international legal instrument against illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, the additional international

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legal instrument against trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and the additional international legal instrument against illegal trafficking in and transporting of migrants, to be considered by the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session for adoption in accordance with resolution 54/126. This last issue was dealt with extensively by the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Lamberto Dini, in his statement before the fifty-fifth session of the Assembly on 13 September 2000.

Having taken a special role in the Ad Hoc Committee and being host country for the signing Conference, Italy respectfully suggests that the action taken by the General Assembly on the draft resolution be scheduled for a date that will allow the Ad Hoc Committee to complete its work and also provide for the Convention and the additional international instruments to be transmitted in due time to the high-level political signing Conference, now scheduled for 12 December in Palermo, Italy.

My delegation therefore has the honour to request that agenda item 105 of the fifty-fifth regular session of the General Assembly, entitled "Crime prevention and criminal justice", be also considered directly in the plenary for the sole purpose of ensuring that action is taken on the adoption of the draft United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the draft protocols thereto.

(*Signed*) Sergio **Vento**
Permanent Representative of
Italy to the United Nations